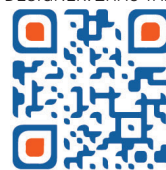


BEIJING TODAY

COMMERCE



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Art shows French inspiration

Chinese master artist Xu Beihong was a student of Francois Flameng, Pascal-Adolphe-Jean Dagnan-Bouveret, Fernand Cormon and Paul Albert Bernal.

As part of Festival Croisements, the finest works of Xu and his French teachers are being exhibited at Beijing World Art Museum through August 3

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LeTV and Xiaomi begin battle of the box

By VENUS LEE

Beijing Today Staff

LeTV and Xiaomi have been lobbing increasingly fiery verbal bombs at one another.

The latest battle stems from LeTV's allegations that the Xiaomi Box, an Internet TV set-top box, infringes on its private network by sharing several of LeTV's exclusive movies and series, such as *The Flowers of War* and *The Legend of Zhenhuan*.



War of words

LeTV won a legal victory in the People's Court of Haidian District last week, having been awarded the payment of undisclosed compensatory damages.

However, Xiaomi issued a statement on June 30 saying that videos played on the Xiaomi Box were legally sourced. The movies and plays in question were acquired from its partner iCNTV, an integrated broadcast control platform for Internet TV sources.

Xiaomi said that iCNTV terminated its license agreement with LeTV when the latter ran afoul of the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT) last year.

The statement was condemned by LeTV as being "evasive" and a "poor attempt at dodging legal responsibility."

"Instead of showing remorse and apologizing to LeTV, Xiaomi is trying to sow discord between LeTV and our partner iCNTV," LeTV said in its own statement. It went on to say that its license agreement with iCNTV is ongoing.

"Xiaomi must remove all infringing content. The court was very clear in determining that Xiaomi had substantial control over the content – enough to be at fault," LeTV said.

In addition to lobbing angry press releases, the companies have turned several social media platforms into a public relations battleground.

Only iCNTV has been oddly silent.

Competition the fuse

SARFT regulations require equipment suppliers who produce Internet TV set-top boxes to limit their coverage to licensed content platforms. Devices which aggregate content or circumvent

licensing restrictions are illegal.

Only seven companies have received Internet TV licenses: iCNTV, Bestv, Hangzhou Wasu, Nanfang Media, Hunan TV, CIBN and Galaxy Internet TV.

"Compared with Bestv and Hangzhou Wasu, iCNTV has not invested enough in movies and television plays," said Zhang Kuisong, a senior IT worker.

LeTV says its cooperation agreement with iCNTV requires that all LeTV content be locked and accessible only to its own customers.

"Obviously, LeTV is not willing to break off its relationship with iCNTV," said Wen Genmiao, an IT columnist. "SARFT's policy forces LeTV to rely on iCNTV for its smart television and box

"Xiaomi is just an excuse," he said. "The real reason these companies are fighting is because of the direct battle is for the future of smart television and smart phones."

Mofang Data Center said the Xiaomi Box was the top selling multimedia device on Tmall.com in the fourth-quarter of 2013 and the first and second quarters of this year. In total, Xiaomi has shipped some 1.22 million boxes.

LeTV has sold only 53,000 boxes in the same period.

"LeTV knows it will share more business territory with Xiaomi in the near future, so the verbal battle over the box is just a start," Wen said.

Internet bound for TVs

In the mobile Internet era, smart phone, tablet PCs, PCs and TVs are regarded as top four information access points.

Last year, Ma Huateng, CEO of Tencent, China's largest and most used Internet service portal, said the Internet is heading for the living room, making TV the next battlefield.

"Smart TVs with dedicated operating systems will be the best providers of Internet TV," said Li Xingguo, the director of Drama, Film and Television Institute at Communication University of China. "Most households are still using normal TVs, so set-top boxes are the transition product."

According to statistics from the China Electronic Chamber of Commerce (CECC), only 100 million of China's 120 million households with flat panel televisions have smart TVs. "Everyone expects the set-top box market in China to have more than 100 billion yuan in potential," Li said.



iCNTV, an integrated broadcast control platform for Internet TV sources

"Viewers are mostly interested in movies and TV dramas. This makes iCNTV less competitive, since most of its content focuses on news, politics, documentaries and sports," Zhang said.

However, as a broadcast control platform, iCNTV can take possession of its partners' content – at least in theory, Zhang said. iCNTV's media is deployed over a content delivery network (CDN) that extends nationwide.

iCNTV, through its cooperation with LeTV, may have inadvertently enabled Xiaomi's devices to play LeTV's content, he said.

platforms. It also ties LeTV's hands and prevents them from managing content on the CDN."

Last year, Youku, Xunlei and Hunan Satellite TV filed lawsuits against Xiaomi for similar reasons. In every case, Xiaomi responded with the same excuse: all infringing content was legally provided by iCNTV. The cases were ultimately dropped.

"LeTV's content is also displayed by iCNTV's other partners, like Haixin SmartTV and the Huawei Box. But LeTV seems determined to fight Xiaomi until it wins," Wen said.

Hubei takes the lead in degrees for vocational training

By DIAO DIAO
Beijing Today Intern

This year's graduates of the Chinese Society of Vocational and Technical Education in Hubei Province were the nation's first to receive an associate degree.

The program, still in its trial phases in the province, is part of the central government's effort to train skilled workers who can put needs of the nation's job market before the dreams of their parents.

Vocational schools first appeared in China in the 1990s as an unregulated education framework with no standardized degree or certificate system for graduates. Often derided as being for flunkies, the schools were relegated to a lower social caste than colleges or universities.

Nevertheless, in recent years vocational school graduates have enjoyed many of the opportunities that college graduates lack.

In the 1980s, university graduates were assigned careers according to their majors. Intellectuals were scarce and the country was desperate for educated men and women in every sector.

Those days are no more.

While most parents still believe that university degrees are essential to stable employment and a good salary, the market has spoken and China's graduates are leaving campus woefully unprepared for its realities.

Between 2001 and 2014, the number of graduates in Beijing alone rose from 1.14 million to 7 million. The employment rate for graduates in all national fell from 90 percent to 70 percent during the same period.

But where college graduates lack job opportunities, vocational school graduates have them in abundance.

Vocational schools have diversified during the past decade, expanding their course offerings from core programs such as plumbing and carpentry to include comic and cartoon illustration, tourism, e-commerce, marketing, bartending, cooking and automobile repair.

Yang Kang is a student from Jiangsu Province. Although he scored high enough on the National College Entrance Exam to enroll in university, he chose to skip college and head for a vocational school this fall.

"I've heard my friends complain that university is really boring. I think I will have a better opportunity to learn real job skills at a trade school. The hands-on approach might be more interesting," said Zhang Ting, a student from Hunan Province who is planning to study tourism.

Zhang said the advantages of vocational education are obvious. The schools' focus on practical skills ensures that vocational school graduates can easily find a job immediately after graduation.

In China, many blue collar jobs are paying significantly more than white collar alternatives. While a bank clerk earns only 4,000 yuan per month, a nanny can expect to earn 12,000 yuan per month or more, according to an online survey by Tencent.com.

But Wang Zhenhong, a department head at Jinhua Vocational School in Zhejiang Province said the quality of careers currently open to vocational school graduates is unsatisfying. The employment rate may be high, but most students end up working in the manufacturing or service sectors.

"Society is a pyramid. There are more jobs at the base level than at the top, and that's why vocational school graduates have so many chances," said Zhang Yaoxiang, director of admissions at another Zhejiang vocational school.

The government's new associate degree program is aimed to eliminate the blind pursuit of diplomas and develop vocational training—and to some extent to ease employment pres-



Exams in trade schools tend to be hands-on.

sure and rehabilitate the image of vocational schools.

The current program is only in its trial stages in Hubei Province and the degrees are not recognized at the national level.

That may be changing soon, as the State Council recently published the Decision of Accelerating Vocational Education, a draft regulation that shifts the nation's focus away from theory and toward skill-based training.

China Education News-paper wrote that bachelor degrees have lost all their meaning in the job market, making the value of an associate degree even more questionable.

For incoming students, the choice of their futures may be a crapsheet. For all the opportunities offered by vocational schools, the country has a long way to go before vocational training loses its social stigma.



University graduates are surprised by the high employment rate offered by trade school education.

CFP Photos

Korean musical arrives for culture exchange



South Korean artists performing Dr. Butterfly

Photos provided by Korean Cultural Center in China

By YANG XIN

Beijing Today Staff

The South Korean Musical Dr. Butterfly debuted in China on June 27 to celebrate the 22nd anniversary of Sino-Korean diplomatic relations.

Dr. Butterfly is inspired by the life story of Seok Joo-myung, a natural scientist who created the first complete map of Korean butterfly species during time Korea was occupied by the Empire of Japan.

The musical is known for capturing the confusion and struggle of a generation that grew up during a period of occupation and civil war. It also hints at one of the world's most severe environmental challenges: global warming.

Co-hosted by Hyundai Theatre Company, Beijing Cultural Development Foundation and the Korean Cultural Center in China, the show included an opening musical performance by Chinese artist Lin Yuan.



Chinese artist Lin Yuan plays traditional music.

"I hope China can share more of South Korea's music and culture through these art and music exchanges," said Director Jin-Young Kim.

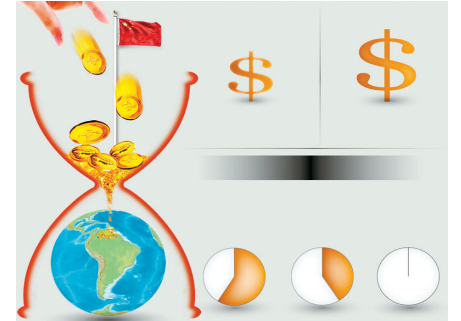
While viewers noted the impressive music and stage lighting, others took it as a warning about what some believe to be Japan's growing militarism.

As Asia's largest musical producer, South Korea ranks third internationally

behind London and New York. More than 200 musicals are staged in South Korea each year.

The Beijing Cultural Development Foundation and Korea Cultural Center in China are planning more seasonal activities including exhibitions and exchanges. More information is available online kocenter.cn or on the center's official Weibo microblog, weibo.com/koreacenter.

Brazilian media positive about Chinese investment



China is investing more in Brazil. CFP Photo

By YANG XIN

Beijing Today Staff

Brazilian media has a very positive view of inbound Chinese investment, according to a survey conducted last year by In Press, a public and institutional relations company.

The report found that Chinese investments are viewed as having a positive impact by 77 percent of the Brazilian media. China is regarded as a partner of Brazil's own growth. Media with a negative view of Chinese investment reportedly had a poor understanding of Chinese business culture.

China has been Brazil's largest business partner since 2009. Brazil is also China's ninth largest partner, making it the only nation outside Asia or Europe on the Top 10 list.

By the end of 2013, the trade flow between the countries totaled \$83.3 billion, up 10 percent year-on-year.

More investments are expected to be announced this month when President Xi Jinping visits the Latin American country for the 6th BRICS Summit and meetings with Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff.

The release of the survey also marks the launch of In Press China Desk, an initiative intended to serve the needs of businesses in both countries.

"The numbers themselves shows an ever growing trade between Brazil and China, but actions are still limited as far as consolidating this partnership at PR, government, institutional and cultural levels," said Hugo Godinho, executive director of In Press Group.

Modern China seen through Korean eyes

By YANG XIN

Beijing Today Staff

Hosted and organized by Korean Cultural Center in China, the art exhibition Painting Time collects the art of Lee Jin-hyu, a South Korean artist.

Lee's vision of China seems quite different from how locals perceive themselves.

In Lee's work, Chinese leaders like Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping are not historic figures but modern artists. Lee uses bright colors and modern painting technique to portray China's transitional period since beginning economic reforms.



Lee Jin-hyu (center) is improving Sino-Korean art ties.

In an interview at the opening ceremony, Lee said that he knows a little about Chinese modern history – espe-

cially the women's struggle for liberation, an important element in his creation.

Ding Xiaoming, vice director of State

Council Information Office and the press officer of the South Korea Embassy in China, attended the opening ceremony of the exhibition.

Ding said he hopes the two countries can develop more cultural exchanges as they strengthen political and economic ties.

"Held during Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to South Korea, the opening of the exhibition was a clear signal that both nations wish to promote friendship among our peoples," Ding said.

The exhibition is free to public and will be open through July 17.

Job Forum enhances Sino-France youth dialogue



Job hunters line up for the Club France Job Forum.

Photos provided by Campus France

By **YANG XIN**
Beijing Today Staff

The fourth Club France Job Forum was held on July 5 to give Chinese alumni of French universities the chance to access their dream jobs.

Co-organized by the French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in China (CCIFC), JCI, the HR Service Center of Wujiang Economic and Technological Development Zone (WEDZ) and Zhaopin.com, the forum began with speed interviews in which each job applicant was given three minutes to submit a



Recruiters post their requirements on the wall.

resume and make an introduction.

More than 10,000 Chinese students

choose to study abroad in France each year. In order to strengthen ties among the Chinese alumni, the French Embassy created Club France in 2008 and launched the Club France Job Forum the following year.

This year's forum saw more job seekers and recruiters. "Last year we invited nearly 60 companies to our job forum, this year the figure soared to more than 100," said Nicolas Wable, deputy commissioner of Campus France. This year the forum expanded to include events in Chengdu and Guangzhou.

Wable said Chinese job seekers who find work through the Club France Job

Forum have been top performers, as indicated by the rise in recruiter attendance.

"Youth communication is crucial for Sino-French diplomatic relations," Wable said.

This year also included the first Club France Entrepreneurship Award. Announced by Sylvie Bermann, the French Ambassador to China in 2013, the award will be launched to support an outstanding member of Club France.

Aside from the job forum, there are many other regular activities specific to Chinese alumni in Club France. More information is available at clubfrancechina.org and on Weibo at weibo.com/clubfrancechina.

France, China tighten relations through art dialogue

By **YANG XIN**
Beijing Today Staff

Festival Croisements is presenting a number of Sino-French art dialogues and Un Maitre et Ses Maitres is among them.

Un Maitre et Ses Maitres represents Sino-French artistic exchange through a selection of works by master artist Xu Beihong and his teachers Francois Flameng, Pascal-Adolphe-Jean Dagnan-Bouveret, Fernand Cormon and Paul Albert Bernal.

Xu was selected for his study at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts (ENSB) in the late 20th century.

The exhibition is divided into two parts: an introduction to Xu's work and a comparative showcase of masterpieces by Xu and his teachers.

Xu's experience represents a generation of young Chinese bringing French fine art skills back to China and leading the way for Chinese art's transition into the modern age.

"We selected works that were able to have a dialogue with each other," said curator Xu Qingping, son of Xu Beihong. "Hope-



Xu Beihong as a youth

fully the selection helps the audience to recognize the influence of French academic art on Chinese contemporary creations."

Xu's works include gorgeous, exotic sketches created in France that resonate with his French teachers' oil paintings.

All the French pieces on exhibition are being shown in China for the first time.

"More than half of the French artists presented here are Prix de Rome



Le Grand Galop, a masterpiece by Xu

Photos provided by French Embassy in China

winners. They are all the best," said Wang Limei, curator of Beijing World Art Museum.

Aside from artistic influence, Xu was impressed by the strict educational mode of ENSB and founded a similar education system for Chinese contemporary art.

2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between France and China. As a

highlight of Sino-French cultural communication, Un Maitre et Ses Maitres facilitates French and Chinese art development, as well as witnesses the deepening of friendship.

Presented at the Beijing World Art Museum, Un Maitre et Ses Maitres will be on display through August 3, after which time it will be transferred to Zhengzhou and Shanghai.

Grand sights of the northern canal

By YANG XIN

Beijing Today Staff

The Grand Canal has long been considered second only to the Great Wall in terms of China's manmade wonders. The 1,776 kilometer waterway was recorded on UNESCO's World Heritage List on June 22.

The canal dates back to the reign of King Fuchai of Wu (495-473 BC), when the first section was dug for military purposes.

Emperor Yang of Sui (AD 604-618) expanded the canal from Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province to Beijing to transport supplies to the capital Luoyang, Henan Province. The Yuan Dynasty saw large-scale renovations while the Ming and Qing dynasties closed off several watercourses.

At present, the main body of the canal in Beijing is known as the Tonghui River, which extends from the Dipamkara Sharira Stupa in Tongzhou District to Jishuitan, Xicheng District.

Dipamkara Sharira Stupa

Famed as one of the Eight Sights of Tongzhou, the impressive pagoda once served as a lighthouse on the ancient shipping lane on the Grand Canal.

The stupa dates back some 1,300 years to the Southern and Northern Dynasties. The tower and its surrounding temple complex have been through multiple restorations over the centuries.

In 1987, repair workers found an image of Zhu Bajie inside the stupa – a discovery all the more surprising since the tower was erected before *Journey to the West* was ever written.

Another mystery is recorded in the *Tongzhou County Annals*. In the annals, the stupa has 13 floors and is built on top of a water well, which connects to the East China Sea and houses a dragon. Rumors said that there were once people who climbed to the bottom of the stupa and found a well with a rough chain stretching into it. The men said they heard growling and howling sounds when they tried to pull up the chain.

Before the most recent renovation in 2004, an elm tree began growing out of the roof of the stupa. Hailed as an auspicious omen, the tree was transplanted to the temple yard. Many people visit the tree to hang bags with notes asking for good fortune.

Huitong Temple

Looking northwest from Deshengmen Bridge you can spot a humble gateway leading to the Huitong Temple, Beijing's first water valve.

Built in the Ming Dynasty, Huitong Temple sits by a fortress on the city's waterway and conceals a huge valve capable of adjusting the capital's water level.

Yinding Bridge and Shichahai

Yinding Bridge is located at the junction of Shichahai and Houhai. It is famous for three landscapes: a view of the Western Hill, lotus ponds and barbecues.

The beauty of the Western Hill is best reflected in the Qianlong Emperor's poems. It is only visible from the ground on the Yinding Bridge. The summer lotuses in Shichahai are also inspiring scenes appreciated by many modern intellectuals. Barbecues were first introduced to the city by the Mongols and soon attracted many fans.

Jishuitan was the predecessor of Shichahai. Supplies from the South gathered on northeastern coast of Jishuitan, making it the terminal of ancient shipping lanes. The bustling former junction also laid the foundation for the booming Shichahai of present.

The Yuhe River

Historically, the Yuhe River was an important watercourse for grain transporting, leading north-bound freighters straight through to imperial warehouse. However, after its abolishment in the Ming Dynasty, it was abandoned and lost until its rediscovery in 2005.

Nowadays, the Yuhe River has been restored and surrounded by scenic parks on both sides. Neighboring courtyards have been restored into historic sites.

Nanxincang

Locates at No. 22, Dongsishitiao, Nanxincang was used as imperial granary in the Ming and Qing dynasties.

In order to ensure the safety of the grain, all granaries were built by stones weighing 25 kilograms. In addition, they were designed in the shape of a pyramid, with a wide bottom and narrow top.

Nanxincang has been reshaped into a recreational destination including historic granaries and modeled on ancient structures and modern plazas. Dining, art galleries and Kunqu opera performance are all regular activities.



Dipamkara Sharira Stupa, the symbol of Tongzhou



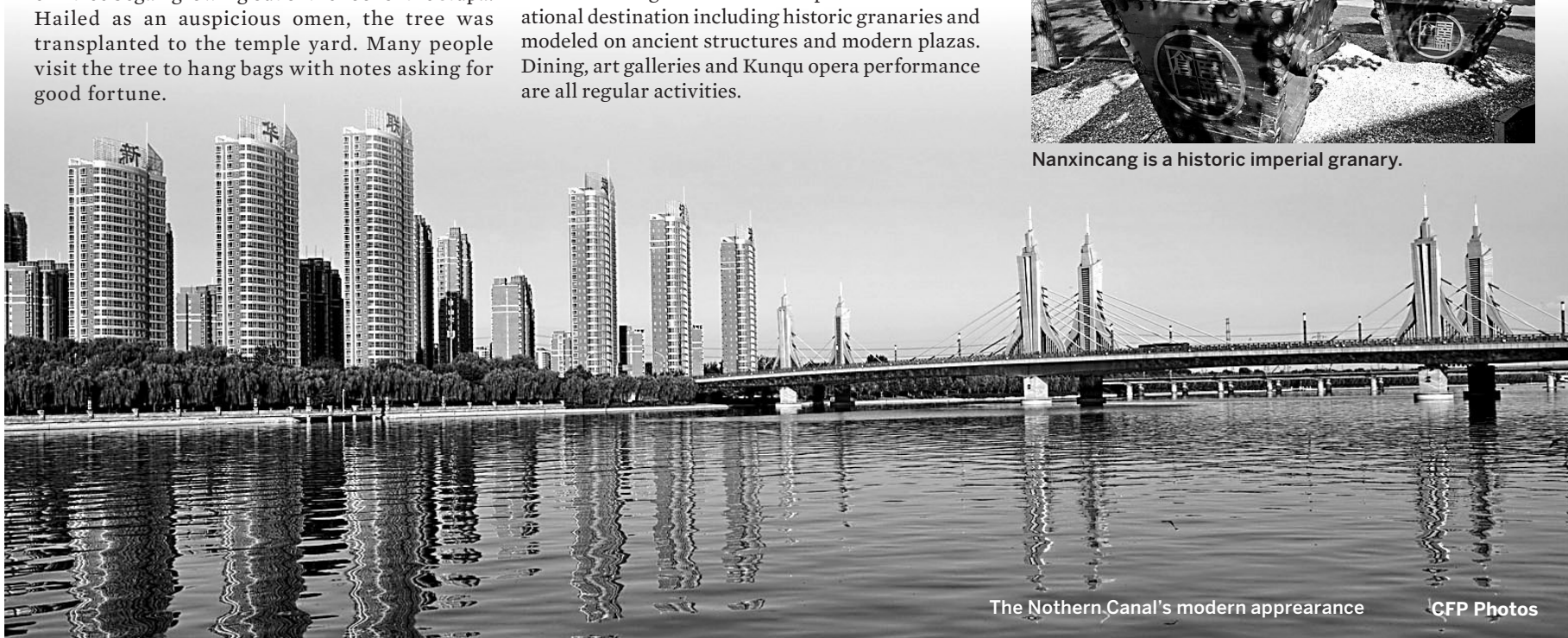
Huitong Temple conceals Beijing's first water valve.



Lotus ponds in Shichahai



Nanxincang is a historic imperial granary.



The Northern Canal's modern appearance

CFP Photos

Music

Top Cat with Selector Don Caesar

Top Cat is one of the most talented MCs to come out of the UK. Born in Manchester to a Jamaican family, Top Cat first tested his skills on the microphone when visiting cousins in Jamaica as a teen in the late 1970s.

Soon he started kicking lyrics on various UK soundsystems like Sledge Hammer and Viking. He next turned up at Sir Coxson Sound in 1989, where he met longtime mic partner Tenor Fly.

Top Cat's career achievements include 11 No. 1 singles, two national Top 20 hits, four MC of the Year awards and recognition as the only MC to



hold the MC of the Year title in both the reggae and jungle scenes at the same time.

As a pioneer in the UK urban music scene, Top Cat's vocals have been highly sort after and helped shape the jungle scene and speed garage scene, the latter leading to the first Top 20 garage tune to chart in 1997. Top Cat is

dynamic both on record and as a live act, landing now for the first time in China!

When: July 20, 9:30 pm-midnight

Where: Yugongyishan

Price: 80 yuan (50 yuan presale)

Dirty Cello

Led by Rebecca Roudman, one of the San Francisco Bay Area's most exciting crossover cellists, Dirty Cello presents a high energy mix of soulful blues, swingin' gypsy jazz and wild Euro-gypsy dance music.

Having shared the stage with Carlos Santana, Elvis Costello, Isaac Hayes, Joan Baez and many more exceptional performers, Rebecca Roudman leads



the dirty cello band which has performed at many exciting venues including the House of Blues (Voodoo Lounge), the Hard Rock Cafe (Oahu and Maui) and tours to Hawaii, L.A./San

Diego and Oregon.

When: July 22, 9-11 pm

Where: Yugongyishan

Price: 100 yuan at door (80 yuan presale)

Community

Public Interest Happy Hour

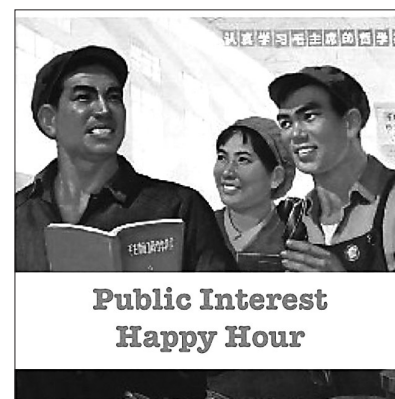
Whether you work for or volunteer with an NGO, embassy, newspaper, school or hospital, or if you just generally like being around public-interest minded folk, this is the happy hour for you.

There are no speeches and no distributions. It's just a chance to kick back in the middle of the busy week and get to know some of the other people in Beijing. That said, lots of fruitful projects and connections have resulted from past events.

When: July 29, 7-10 pm

Where: The Bookworm

Price: Free



**Public Interest
Happy Hour**

Books

Kathryn Koromilas: This is Not a Love Story

Kathryn Koromilas, author of *Palimpsest: A Novel*, is preparing for her upcoming release of *This is Not a Love Story*, a dialogue-based story which takes a philosophical look at falling in, and falling out of love.

In this unique event, her work will be adapted to the stage in a series of four vignettes performed live at The Bookworm.

When: July 31, 7:30-9 pm

Where: The Bookworm

Price: 50 yuan (40 yuan for members)



Culture

Sports



eSport DOTA 2 The International

The International is an annual electronic sports DOTA 2 championship tournament hosted by Valve Corporation.

This year it will take place from July 18 to 21 at the KeyArena, Seattle, US. The prize pool for the tournament broke records for being the largest in eSports by reaching \$10 million.

When: July 21, 10:37 pm-5:37 am

Where: Paddy O'Shea's

Lecture: Chinese folk house

Have you traveled China? Have you noticed the different types of buildings? Have you ever tried to find out the reason for the differences?

Attend Miss Li's class to learn more about variations within Chinese culture and to see more architectural art.

When: July 23, 3:30-5 pm

Where: CLE Classroom, Room 605, Building 9, Jianwai SOHO

Price: Free



The National Museum

Located on the east side of Tiananmen Square, the National Museum of China is the world's largest museum with more than 1 million precious exhibits.

Visit to learn more about the history of China and to see lots of antiques.

When: July 19, 9-11:30am

Where: CLE classroom, Room 605, Building 9, Jianwai SOHO

Price: Free

Wuqiang revived through visual and sound art

By VENUS LEE
Beijing Today Staff

The ancient county of Wuqiang, famed for its Lunar New Year paintings, has become a tourism hot spot since being evaluated by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2006.

Its famous paintings, a kind of wood-block engraving, are one of the cultural symbols of Hebei Province.

Woodprint paintings are noted as one of China's seven major Spring Festival painting traditions. The other six are from Weifang, Shandong Province; Taohuawu, Jiangsu Province; Mianzhu, Sichuan Province; Zhuxian, Henan Province; Foshan, Guangdong Province; and Yangliuqing, Tianjin.

Wuqiang's paintings enjoy the longest history and strongest reputation of them all.

Traditional Lunar New Year paintings are created in three steps: painting, carving and printing. Wuqiang's paintings feature vivid structures, bold brushwork, strong coloring, decorative patterns and simple scenes focused on a single theme. The lines are steady and natural, and the coloring is simple but full of variation.

Lunar New Year painting is a folk art rooted in farming tradition. Its subjects and forms focus on natural shapes and rural tastes. The paintings make heavy use of symbolism and exaggeration.

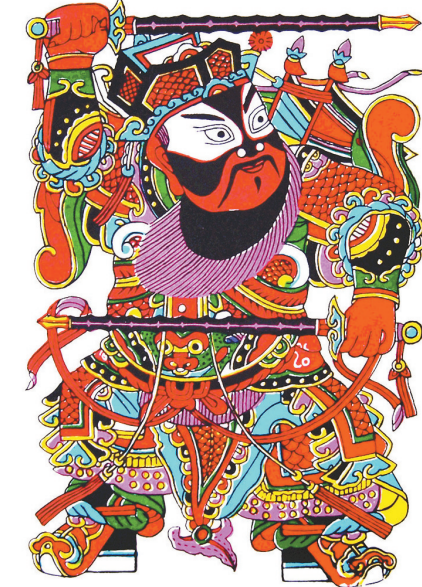
Some paintings depict farmers blessed with bumper crops and easy lives. Some ward off evil spirits and welcome good luck. Others simply seek to capture daily life and teach people to be kind and work hard.

The many styles of paintings are designed for display on doors, windows, walls, lanterns and vertical couplets pasted outside doors.

In addition to being viewed as indi-



Musical instrument craftsman



Wood block printings



Musicians

vidual pieces, the paintings can also be displayed as a picture book. Many of



Musical instruments produced in Wuqiang



Wood block printings

the prints are used to tell stories from *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* and *The Journey West*.

Many old Wuqiang New Year paintings have been lost due to wars and natural disasters. During the first and second world wars, many were taken abroad, where they are now held in foreign museums.

In order to better protect and collect

masterpieces of Wuqiang, the country's first museum for the genre opened in 1985.

Today, with the help of modern production techniques, Wuqiang paintings are getting a new lease on life and being sold around the world.

The county's charm is not limited to its traditional woodprint paintings: Wuqiang's music scene also attracts tourists from all over the world.

Each summer, music exchange activities make the Zhouwo Music Village in Wuqiang a paradise for musicians and music lovers from all over the world.

Among them, Maitian Music Festival is the county's most popular festival. The event runs from May to October and includes competitions and the chance to win access to a professional training program or recording contract.

Zhouwo Music Village is being developed as a tourism base that combines musical instrument production, music creation, training, performance, exhibition, dining and shopping.

Momo update aimed to bolster reputation, security

By VENUS LEE
Beijing Today Staff

Momo, the popular social networking app, released an updated version of its software and announced its move to a new office in Wangjing Soho on July 10.

Among the new features in Momo 5.0 are a star rating function designed to help users communicate with confidence and make friends on the platform.

The location-based mobile social network has the dubious honor of being known as "China's social app for sex," but that's an image the company hopes to shake.

"Although the disgraceful title is probably the reason a lot of fans use our product, our real intent is to help users to meet new friends and build strong relationships using our product," said Lin Zhilin, Momo's product director.

The star system is intended to empower the community to score the reliability of a user's identity, activity and manner of social interaction. The more trustworthy the user, the most stars they will have.

Users with more stars can access more of Momo's features.

"The new setting may affect some user's regular habits, but they will encourage civ-

ilized social contact and develop Momo into a more credible platform in the long run," he said. "We also hope our move can improve the development of a social credit system in the mobile Internet industry."

Momo 5.0 has also made changes to its group chat function. New users can create groups soon after they register. "This means Momo offers more space and freedom to new users," Lin said.

Momo was created by Tang Yan in August 2011. The app has more than 148 million users, about 52.43 million of whom are active each month. The platform has 3.56 million registered groups.

